

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/039255 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 5/00**, 6/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2003/004672

(22) International Filing Date: 29 October 2003 (29.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

0225060.3 29 October 2002 (29.10.2002) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ASTRON CLINICA LIMITED** [GB/GB]; The Mount, Toft, Cambridge CB3 7RL (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **COTTON, Symon, D'oily** [GB/GB]; Rose Cottage, 42 Church Street, Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire SG19 3AF (GB).

(74) Agent: **BARKER BRETTELL**; 138 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9PW (GB).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

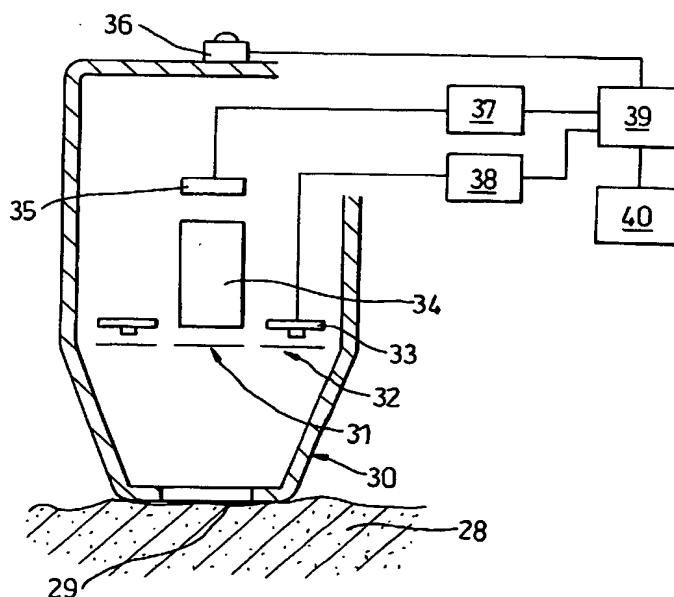
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MEASURING TISSUE HISTOLOGY



(57) Abstract: A method of non-invasively analysing skin structure, comprising the steps of irradiating a plurality of locations over an area of tissue under investigation and detecting the light remitted at each location. An analysis of the light remitted at each location may then be made and a measurement representing the total melanin and dermal melanin within the tissue taken. Next a comparison of the measurement for the dermal melanin obtained previously is made with the measurement for the total melanin obtained previously. The comparison is then used to investigate the histology of the skin.